

Appl. No. 09/927,712  
Amdt. sent February 14, 2006  
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

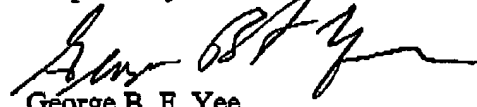
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 17, 21, 22, 25, 26, and 28-33 are pending.

The undersigned acknowledges and appreciates the telephone call from the examiner placed on February 8, 2006 to indicate that the claims would be deemed allowable over the art of record if the subject matter of dependent claims 20 and 24 were incorporated into the independent claims 17, 26, and 33. In response the claims have been amended accordingly, and claims 20 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

  
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